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BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.

333 Commerce Street  
Suite 2101  
Nashville, TN 37201-3300

guy.hicks@bellsouth.com

October 9, 2003

Guy M. Hicks  
General Counsel

615 214 6301  
Fax 615 214 7406

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Hon. Deborah Taylor Tate, Chairman  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37238

Re: *Implementation of the Federal Communications Commission's  
Triennial Review Order (Nine-month Proceeding)*  
Docket No. 03-00491

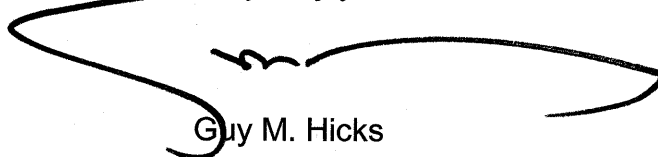
*Implementation of the Federal Communications Commission's  
Triennial Review Order (Nine-month Proceeding) (Hot Cuts)*  
Docket No. 03-00526

*Implementation of the Federal Communications Commission's  
Triennial Review Order (Nine-month Proceeding) (Loop & Transport)*  
Docket No. 03-00527

Dear Chairman Tate:

Enclosed are the original and fourteen copies of an Initial Pre-Hearing Order Establishing Procedure being proposed by BellSouth and CompSouth. Copies of the enclosed are being provided to counsel of record.

Very truly yours,



Guy M. Hicks

GMH:ch

BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
Nashville, Tennessee

In Re: *Implementation of the Federal Communications Authority's  
Triennial Review Order (Nine-month Proceeding)*  
Docket No. 03-00491

*Implementation of the Federal Communications Authority's  
Triennial Review Order (Nine-month Proceeding) (Hot Cuts)*  
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Triennial Review Order (Nine-month Proceeding) (Loop and Transport)*  
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**INITIAL PRE-HEARING  
ORDER ESTABLISHING PROCEDURE**

The Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("the Authority") enters the following *Initial Pre-Hearing Order Establishing Procedure* governing procedures in the above-styled Docket for (1) service of all pleadings, discovery and responses, testimony, briefs and other required filings; (2) discovery, including but not limited to, interrogatories, requests for production of documents, requests for admissions, depositions; and (3) confidential treatment of responses to discovery. Any issue regarding these matters that are not addressed in this Initial Pre-Hearing Order will be governed by the Authority's normal rules of practice and procedure.

**(1) Service of Pleadings, Discovery and Responses, Testimony, Briefs and Other Required Filings.**

All filings by the Parties to this proceeding and the service of said filings by Parties shall be made as follows:

- (i) All filings required to be made to the Authority shall be made pursuant to the ordinary rules of practice and procedure that apply to matters pending before the Authority, on the dates specified by the Authority and in the manner such filings are ordinarily made;

provided, however, that unless the Authority specifically orders otherwise with regard to a particular filing or submission, the parties may hand deliver any required pleading to the Authority by 11 a.m. on the day following the date the filing was due, and provided that service on the other parties was made in accord with the requirements of this order, such filing shall be considered timely.

- (ii) Every party to this proceeding shall provide every other party with an email address of a person who shall be authorized to receive service copies for that party of all filings that have to be filed at the Authority or otherwise served on the parties. If the person authorized to receive service for any party changes, that party shall be responsible for notifying all other parties of such change. For any party who has already intervened in this proceeding and who has not provided such an e-mail address, such party shall do so promptly, and in no event less than 10 days following the date of this order. Failure to provide such an address shall excuse any party from any alleged failure to serve the party who has failed to provide the appropriate e-mail address.
- (iii) For the purpose of this proceeding, where a responsive submission is made, service shall be deemed complete when the person making the filing sends the filing to the appropriate email address. For filings that require a responsive filing from other parties, such as interrogatories, requests for admission and requests for production of documents, the time for complying with the request shall begin when the party to whom the request is made receives the request; provided that if the filing is served electronically and is received after 4 p.m, the filing shall be treated as if it were served and received on the next business day following the date on which the electronic filing was received. The parties are admonished to (1) request "receipt" and "read" indicators for all emails to insure that they are delivered and received in a timely manner and (2) to insure that the person designated to receive service, or someone acting in his or her stead, can regularly access email. Upon agreement of the parties, each party may designate up to three persons to receive service to alleviate any concerns about the availability of someone to receive service.

- (iv) Because some filings, such as testimony, or the responses to filings such as interrogatories or responses to requests for production may be voluminous, the parties can elect, for non-confidential materials, to create a publicly accessible website where any such filing can be posted. If a party elects to post a responsive filing to this web site, and sends an email with a URL link to that publicly accessible website to the appropriate representatives of the other parties, such a posting shall be considered service of the responsive document. This vehicle may be used for the posting of testimony and responses to discovery, but shall not be used for the filing of matters that require a response from other parties, such as interrogatories, requests for admission or requests for the production of documents.
- (v) The purpose of providing for service in the foregoing ways is to facilitate the exchange of information between the parties so that this proceeding can go forward in a timely and efficient manner. Any disputes as to whether there has been compliance with these requirements should be discussed among the parties and resolved amicably if at all possible. Prior to bringing any dispute regarding these matters to the Authority, the parties will be required to certify that they have met and discussed the dispute, and succinctly detail exactly what the dispute is. The Authority will not entertain disputes involving a question of whether a filing was made timely unless the aggrieved party can demonstrate that it has been substantially prejudiced.
- (vi) Where a party receives an electronic copy of a document, the party can request a paper copy of the document, but the responding party shall have one week after the request is made to furnish the paper copy.

## **(2) Discovery**

- (A) Interrogatories, Requests to Produce Documents, Requests for Admissions.

(i) Interrogatories, Requests to Produce Documents and Requests for Admissions and other Discovery may be served requesting state-specific responses and information or, at a party's discretion, seeking responses and information concerning all nine states in the BellSouth region. It shall not be an appropriate or sustainable objection that such discovery seeks information concerning states other than the state in which the discovery is served. Subject to the Confidentiality provisions in Section 3 below and any other evidentiary objections, discovery obtained in other states in the BellSouth region shall be available for use in this proceeding or where appropriate, in appeals from Authority orders to a court of competent jurisdiction or the FCC, subject to normal rules applying to the admission of evidence.

(ii) Where requested, the parties shall respond, except as provided below, to Interrogatories, Requests to Produce and Requests for Admissions within 30 calendar days of service.

(iii) If a party believes that a particular request is unduly voluminous or would otherwise require additional time to respond to (and the request is not otherwise objectionable) the parties are admonished to work together to agree on an appropriate time frame for responding to the discovery, given the circumstances that exist at the time. In resolving such issues, the parties are directed to consider whether the requests can be broken into smaller groups, with some groups being responded to more quickly than others, or whether there is some other innovative way to address such issues, without bringing them to the Authority for resolution. Again, should a party seek the Authority's intervention in such a dispute, the complaining party should be prepared to explain in detail why it has been unable to reach a satisfactory resolution, and why it is prejudiced by the solution offered by the non-complaining party.

(iv) Objections to Discovery.

(a) Objections to Interrogatories, Requests to Produce Documents and Requests for Admissions and other Discovery shall be made within 10 calendar days after service. Objections to Interrogatories, Requests to Produce Documents and Requests for Admissions and other Discovery may include, but not be limited to:

(1) Legal Objections

(2) Objections to the time required for the production of region-wide discovery responses, in which event the objecting party shall provide a time frame and/or date certain for response to the region-wide discovery. Such Objections may include the fact that certain discovery responses may be voluminous and/or require answers from individuals from multiple states.

(b) Where objections are made pursuant to (2)(A)(iv) (a) (1), the objecting party shall state whether it intends to provide a partial response subject to the objection. Parties shall agree upon a time frame and/or date certain for responses, and the responding party will engage in its best efforts to respond as quickly as possible.

(c) Where objections are made pursuant to (2)(A)(iv) (a) (2), the parties shall agree upon a time frame and/or date certain for responses, and the responding party will engage in its best efforts to respond as quickly as possible.

(v) Where the parties are unable to resolve a discovery dispute as outlined in the proceeding sections, the parties shall seek expedited rulings on any discovery dispute, and the Authority shall resolve any such dispute expeditiously. The resolution of discovery disputes may be determined by the Pre-Hearing Officer, or by a staff attorney the Authority appointed for that purpose on an ad hoc basis.

(B) Depositions

(i) Depositions of employees, consultants, contractors and agents may be taken pursuant to the ordinary rules of practice and procedure before the Authority, including any objections that may be raised.

(ii) Depositions of persons whom the parties will sponsor as witnesses in the above-styled Docket shall be limited as follows, after testimony is filed:

(a) Any party may depose a person who files testimony, subject to (2)(B)(ii)(b) below, after the filing of:

(1) direct testimony; and

(2) rebuttal testimony; and

(3) surrebuttal testimony

(b) Once a witness has been deposed regarding such testimony in any state in the BellSouth region, that witness may only be deposed again (1) upon the request of the staff of the Authority, or if there is participation by a public agency such as a consumer advocate or the Attorney General, upon request by such public agency, or (2) any party to this proceeding that was not a party to the proceeding in which the deposition was taken, or (3) by any party, if the testimony offered by the witness contains state specific information which is different from previous testimony filed by the witness, in which case the deposition will be limited to questions about the state specific material and related items.

(c) Should a witnesses' testimony in this state change materially, other than by reason of the inclusion of state specific material discussed in (b) above, the witness may be deposed again, but only in connection with the testimony that has changed.

(d) The purpose of these deposition requirements is to conserve the resources of the parties, and to encourage the parties to work jointly and cooperatively to conduct necessary discovery.

(e) If the parties have a dispute regarding the taking of depositions in any particular situation, the parties are admonished to work together to resolve such differences, and if those differences cannot be reconciled, the parties

should be prepared to present a very brief explanation of the dispute and the aggrieved party should be prepared to demonstrate how it is prejudiced by its failure to comply with the requests or objections of the opposing party.

**(3) Confidentiality of Information**

The Pre-Hearing Officer is requested to issue a protective order similar to that used in other dockets to protect confidential information. In addition, the parties may require the execution of a confidentiality agreement where appropriate. A form confidentiality agreement will be submitted to the Authority.

ENTERED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

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Hearing Officer



## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on October 9, 2003, a copy of the foregoing document was served on the parties of record, via the method indicated:

☐ Hand  
☐ Mail  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ Overnight  
☒ Electronic

Henry Walker, Esquire  
Boult, Cummings, et al.  
414 Union Street, #1600  
Nashville, TN 37219-8062  
[hwalker@boultcummings.com](mailto:hwalker@boultcummings.com)

☐ Hand  
☐ Mail  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ Overnight  
☒ Electronic

Charles B. Welch, Esquire  
Farris, Mathews, et al.  
618 Church St., #300  
Nashville, TN 37219  
[cwelch@farrismathews.com](mailto:cwelch@farrismathews.com)

☐ Hand  
☐ Mail  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ Overnight  
☒ Electronic

Martha M. Ross-Bain, Esquire  
AT&T  
1200 Peachtree Street, Suite 8100  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309  
[rossbain@att.com](mailto:rossbain@att.com)

☐ Hand  
☐ Mail  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ Overnight  
☒ Electronic

Timothy Phillips, Esquire  
Office of Tennessee Attorney General  
P. O. Box 20207  
Nashville, Tennessee 37202  
[timothy.phillips@state.tn.us](mailto:timothy.phillips@state.tn.us)

☐ Hand  
☐ Mail  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ Overnight  
☒ Electronic

H. LaDon Baltimore, Esquire  
Farrar & Bates  
211 Seventh Ave. N, # 320  
Nashville, TN 37219-1823  
[don.baltimore@farrar-bates.com](mailto:don.baltimore@farrar-bates.com)

☐ Hand  
☐ Mail  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ Overnight  
☒ Electronic

James Wright, Esq.  
United Telephone - Southeast  
14111 Capitol Blvd.  
Wake Forest, NC 27587  
[james.b.wright@mail.sprint.com](mailto:james.b.wright@mail.sprint.com)

☐ Hand  
☐ Mail  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ Overnight  
☒ Electronic

Ms. Carol Kuhnnow  
Qwest Communications, Inc.  
4250 N. Fairfax Dr.  
Arlington, VA 33303  
[Carol.kuhnnow@qwest.com](mailto:Carol.kuhnnow@qwest.com)

☐ Hand  
☐ Mail  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ Overnight  
☒ Electronic

Jon E. Hastings, Esquire  
Boult, Cummings, et al.  
P. O. Box 198062  
Nashville, TN 37219-8062  
[jhastings@boultcummings.com](mailto:jhastings@boultcummings.com)

☐ Hand  
☐ Mail  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ Overnight  
☒ Electronic

Dale Grimes, Esquire  
Bass, Berry & Sims  
315 Deaderick St., #2700  
Nashville, TN 37238-3001  
[dgrimes@bassberry.com](mailto:dgrimes@bassberry.com)

☐ Hand  
☐ Mail  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ Overnight  
☒ Electronic

Mark W. Smith, Esquire  
Strang, Fletcher, et al.  
One Union Square, #400  
Chattanooga, TN 37402  
[msmith@sf-firm.com](mailto:msmith@sf-firm.com)

☐ Hand  
☐ Mail  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ Overnight  
☒ Electronic

Nanette S. Edwards, Esquire  
ITC^DeltaCom  
4092 South Memorial Parkway  
Huntsville, AL 35802  
[nedwards@deltacom.com](mailto:nedwards@deltacom.com)

